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a shaft portion supported in a bracket and disposed through said roller portion, wherein  
said roller portion rotates around said shaft portion so as to move by the thickness of said  
medium, and wherein the shaft portion is not rotably connected to the feed roller.

--2. A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft;

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the feed of the medium, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller.--

--3. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one align roller comprises least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction and further comprising a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction, wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between the lateral and vertical align rollers.--

--4. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 3, wherein the align rollers have a non-circular cross section for feeding the medium.--

--5. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 3, wherein the feed assistance member is aligned in the vertical direction with respect to medium movement.--

--6. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the feed assistance member further comprises:

two brackets including open grooves, wherein the shaft is disposed in the grooves of the bracket.--

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--7. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 2, wherein the total weight of the feed assistance roller is applied onto the medium.--

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--8. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 6, wherein the feed assistance member further comprises a spring for urging the feed assistance roller onto the medium.--

--9. The medium feeding apparatus of claim 6, wherein the medium is paper.--

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--10. A medium processing device including a medium feeding apparatus to feed the medium through a feed path in the processing device, wherein the medium feeding apparatus comprises:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and  
a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft;

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the feed of the medium, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller.--

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--11. The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the processing device comprises a printer and the medium comprises paper.

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--12. The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the at least one align roller comprises least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction and wherein the medium feeding apparatus further comprises a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction, wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between the lateral and vertical align rollers.--

--13. The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the align rollers have a non-circular cross section for feeding the medium.--

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--14. The medium processing device of claim 12, wherein the feed assistance member is aligned in the vertical direction with respect to medium movement.--

--15. The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the feed assistance member further comprises  
two brackets including open grooves, wherein the shaft is disposed in the grooves of the bracket.--

--16. The medium processing device of claim 10, wherein the total weight of the feed assistance roller is applied onto the medium.--

--17. The medium processing device of claim 15, wherein the medium feeding apparatus further comprises a spring for urging the feed assistance roller onto the medium.--

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REMARKS

The Examiner rejected pending claim 1 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Nakabayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,746,426). Applicant has amended claim 1 and added claims 2-17 and submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

1. The Application Discloses the Amendments to Claim 1 and the Added Claims

Claim 1 was amended to recite that the feed path includes at least one feed roller and that the shaft portion is disposed through the roller such that the roller rotates around the shaft.

Claim 1 was further amended to recite that the shaft portion is not rotably connected to the feed roller.